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Dems, GOP have distinct priorities for 2023: AP-NORC poll



Cars blur past a gas station sign displaying the price of regular unleaded gasoline Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, in Benton, Mo.

Associated Press



The president of the IOC will visit Aruba

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Dems, GOP have distinct priorities for 2023: AP-NORC poll



A Utah Food Bank volunteer carries groceries for the needy at a mobile food pantry distribution site Dec. 21, 2022, in Salt Lake City. **Associated Press**

By **HANNAH FINGERHUT**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eva Guzman's expenses have swelled, but she feels comfortable financially thanks to the savings she and her late husband stockpiled for a rainy day. Nevertheless, the 80-year-old retired library clerk in San Antonio limits trips to the grocery store, adjusts the thermostat to save on utilities and tries to help her grandchildren and great-grandchildren get what they need. It was difficult to raise her own four children, Guzman said, but she and her husband were able to manage. She doesn't know how young families today stay financially afloat with such high prices for groceries and clothes.

"It's really gotten worse in this age for a lot of people," said Guzman, who identifies as a conservative and blames President Joe Biden for inflation and economic instability. "It's really getting out of hand."

Like Guzman, 30% of people in the United States consider inflation a high priority for the country, named in an open-ended question as one of up to five issues for the government to work on in 2023, according to a December poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's roughly twice

the percentage as a year ago, though down from 40% in June, with inflation easing somewhat despite remaining high.

Overall, the economy in general remains a bipartisan issue, mentioned by most U.S. adults across party lines. But the poll finds Republicans and Democrats have sharply distinct views of priorities for the country in the new year. More Republicans than Democrats name inflation, gas and food prices, energy and immigration, while Democrats focus on health care, climate change, poverty, racism, abortion and women's rights.

Elizabeth Stephens, a 41-year-old Democratic-leaning independent in Houston, recognizes that inflation is an issue right now. But she thinks there are other problems that the government should focus on addressing.

"Inflation comes and goes," said Stephens, a manager working in learning and development. But issues such as poverty and health care disparities, she said, "are always there."

"Even if the economy is great, there are still people who are suffering," Stephens added.

There is broad skepticism from members of both parties that progress will be made on the issues about

which the public most cares. In the poll results and in interviews with the AP, many people cite hostile political divisions as part of the problem.

Stephens said the country is so divided that "it seems close to impossible" to imagine there would be progress this year.

Glenn Murray, a 59-year-old in Little Mountain, South Carolina, also called out the distance between the left and the right, wishing that politicians would recognize the "truth in the middle." But his priorities are different from Stephens'.

Murray, a moderate Republican, thinks inflation and the economy are critical issues and he worries that the U.S. will soon face a recession. But he is also concerned about energy policy, suggesting the nation's reliance on foreign oil is driving up gas prices, and he describes the surge of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border as "unsustainable."

"I definitely understand that immigration is what helped build this country ... but you have to have guardrails," said Murray, who works for a university's audit services. "You just can't open the gates and let everyone in that wants to come in."

Named by 45% of Republicans, immigration is one of the GOP's leading priorities. The Supreme Court

recently extended Trump-era pandemic restrictions on people seeking asylum, as thousands of migrants gathered on the Mexico side of the border seeking to enter the United States.

Roughly 2 in 10 Republicans also name crime, foreign policy issues, energy and health care. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to specifically name inflation, 37% vs. 26%, and gas prices, 22% vs. 7%.

Among Democrats, about 4 in 10 rank climate change and health care, 3 in 10 prioritize gun issues and roughly one-quarter name education and abortion or women's rights. Roughly 2 in 10 Democrats name racism and poverty.

For 24-year-old Osbaldo Cruz, the country's minimum wage is insufficient, especially to keep up with high inflation. But the Democrat, who works as an assistant manager at a fast-food restaurant, equally prioritizes climate change and gun policy, issues that have been close to his home in Las Vegas.

Seeing record temperatures and increasing waste, Cruz worries that conditions on Earth won't be livable in the future. "People pretty much think short term, so we never take the time to invest in proper long-term solutions," he said.

And while he said he understands the importance of the right to bear arms, he's concerned with how easy it is for people to get a gun.

Joseph Wiseman, a 52-year-old Presbyterian pastor in Wichita, Kansas, wants the country to prioritize protections for women's health care, including access to abortion after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and LGBTQ individuals.

"I'm very concerned that basic human rights are under threat," he said. "The blatant politicization of the Supreme Court and the handing down of that ruling really brought home in stark circumstance how deadly important this is for the livelihood of 51% of God's children."

Wiseman was a lifelong Republican up until the past few years, registering instead as a Democrat. He said he worries about the "dangerous" shift toward authoritarianism and Christian nationalism happening in the country, especially within the GOP.

Still, he said he has to be hopeful.

"I have to be optimistic that the threat will be met and that basic human rights can be secured for all," Wiseman said.

Most of those surveyed say the opposite. About three-quarters of U.S. adults say they are not confident in the ability of the federal government to make progress on the important problems facing the country in 2023, according to the poll. About one-third of Republicans and Democrats name the state of politics as a critical issue facing the country.

Michael Holcomb, a 35-year-old audio technician in Los Angeles, wants less polarization in the election process, which he thinks leads politicians to be more extreme. But he sees the issue as extending beyond politics.

"I think that it's more of a cultural problem," the independent said. "We all have to figure out a way to get past it." □

At the Supreme Court, it's taking longer to hear cases

By JESSICA GRESKO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

When lawyers argue before the Supreme Court, a small white light goes on to tell them when their time is almost expired and then a red light signals when they should stop. But arguments this term are extending well beyond the red light's cue. Arguments that usually lasted an hour in the morning have stretched well beyond two, and on many days it's long past lunchtime before the court breaks.

The lengthy arguments have to do with a change the justices have made to their argument style, a switch tied to the coronavirus pandemic, leading to the justices asking more questions. Justices have said in the past that lawyers' written briefs, not oral arguments, most influence their decisions, so it's unclear if the extra time is really helping them decide cases. Whether that trend will continue is also an open question.

In December, an argument about whether a Colorado graphic artist can refuse to create wedding websites for same-sex couples lasted two hours and 25 minutes. And an important elections case that was scheduled for an hour and a half clocked in at two hours and 53 minutes. Already, a handful of arguments have been longer than any



An American flag waves in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, June 27, 2022. Associated Press

argument the high court heard in the term that ended in June — and that term included major cases on abortion and guns.

In the graphic artist case on Dec. 5, Justice Neil Gorsuch engaged in friendly banter with attorneys about the length of arguments.

"Good morning, Mr. Olson," Gorsuch said around 11:30 a.m., after arguments had been going on for nearly an hour and a half.

"Is it still morning?" responded Colorado lawyer Eric R. Olson.

"Just barely," Gorsuch replied to laughter from the audience. "It must not feel like it standing where you are."

"I'm here all day, Justice Gorsuch," Olson said.

The reason high court arguments are running longer goes back to a change the justices made in 2020. After the pandemic began, the justices decided to hold arguments by telephone and abandoned their typical free-for-all style of questioning. Instead, each justice got a few minutes to ask questions in order of seniority.

When the justices moved back to in-person arguments in their courtroom more than a year and a half later, they returned to the largely free-for-all questioning. Now, however, at the end of each lawyer's

time, the justices each get a chance to ask any remaining questions, again in seniority order. That switch led to an average of 18 extra minutes per case last term, said lawyer William Jay, who's been tracking the extra time.

Jay said by email the longest argument so far this term was a case involving the adoption of Native American children, which ran three hours and 13 minutes. Jay said his sense is that the justices seem more comfortable with the format this term and that the questions are longer. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, who replaced retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, is

also a "considerably more active questioner" than her predecessor, Jay said.

According to Adam Feldman, the creator of the Empirical SCOTUS blog, Jackson has spoken about 36,000 words this term while her most vocal colleague, Justice Elena Kagan, has spoken only about 24,000. The justices' new format has tripped up some lawyers who are used to the old way of doing business and have moved to sit down when the red light on their podium went on.

Longer arguments are, in fact, a return for the court. Early in the court's history, cases could take days to argue.

During the 1800s, when the justices heard arguments from noon to 4 p.m. without a lunch break, tables were set up behind the bench and the justices would leave one or two at a time to eat.

"The audience could not see them eating, but they could very distinctly hear the rattle of the knives and forks," court history expert Clare Cushman has written. The length of arguments shrank over the years until in 1970, under Chief Justice Warren Burger, it became 30 minutes per side. The court's website claims that's still the case. "Typically, the Court holds two arguments each day beginning at 10:00 a.m., each lasting one hour," it says. □

N.Y. lawmakers get pay raise making them nation's best-paid

By MAYSOON KHAN

Associated Press/Report for America

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Just in time for the New Year, New York lawmakers have become the highest paid state legislators in the nation under a bill signed Saturday.

Members of both houses are getting a pay raise of \$32,000, for a base salary of \$142,000, under a bill Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a day before her inauguration Sunday. That's a 29% raise over their previous salary of

\$110,000.

The law went into effect Sunday.

Before the pay boost, state lawmakers in California were the highest paid with a yearly base salary of \$119,000, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

New York lawmakers passed the pay-raise bill during a special session in late December.

The new pay raise comes with restrictions, though. Starting in 2025, outside income will be capped at

\$35,000. Pay in excess of that from military service, retirement plans, or investments will still be allowed.

Some Democrats in the legislature supported the pay raise, and said it was necessary in order to keep up with the cost of living.

But some Republican lawmakers spoke out against the bill during the special session, criticizing the ban on the outside income.

"Their attempt to buy political cover by instituting a ban on outside income won't make Albany better,



New York state Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris, D-Astoria, left, greets Sen. Andrew J. Lanza, R-Staten, after debating legislation to approve a legislative pay raise during a special legislative session in the Senate Chamber at the state Capitol in Albany, N.Y., Dec. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

it will make it worse," said state Sen. George Borrello

in explaining his "no" vote on the bill. □

Transgender woman's scheduled execution would be U.S. first

By **JIM SALTER**
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Unless Missouri Gov. Mike Parson grants clemency, Amber McLaughlin, 49, will become the first openly transgender woman executed in the U.S. She is scheduled to die by injection Tuesday for killing a former girlfriend in 2003. McLaughlin's attorney, Larry Komp, said there are no court appeals pending. The clemency request focuses on several issues, including McLaughlin's traumatic childhood and mental health issues, which the jury never heard in her trial. A foster parent rubbed feces in her face when she was a toddler and her adoptive father used a stun gun on her, according to the clemency petition. It says she suffers from depression and attempted suicide multiple times.

The petition also includes reports citing a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, a condition that causes anguish and other symptoms as a result of a disparity between a person's gender identity and their assigned sex at birth. "We think Amber has demonstrated incredible courage because I can tell you there's a lot of hate when it comes to that issue," her attorney, Larry Komp, said Monday. But, he said, McLaughlin's sexual identity is "not the main



This photo provided by the Federal Public Defender Office shows death row inmate Amber McLaughlin. Unless Missouri Gov. Mike Parson grants clemency, McLaughlin will become the first transgender woman executed in the U.S.

focus" of the clemency request. Parson's spokesperson, Kelli Jones, said the review process for the clemency request is still underway. There is no known case of an openly transgender inmate being executed in the U.S. before, according to the anti-execution Death Penalty Information Center. A friend in prison says she saw McLaughlin's personality blossom during her gender transition. Before transitioning, McLaughlin was in a relationship with girlfriend Beverly Guenther. McLaughlin would show up at the suburban St. Louis office where

the 45-year-old Guenther worked, sometimes hiding inside the building, according to court records. Guenther obtained a restraining order, and police officers occasionally escorted her to her car after work. Guenther's neighbors called police the night of Nov. 20, 2003, when she failed to return home. Officers went to the office building, where they found a broken knife handle near her car and a trail of blood. A day later, McLaughlin led police to a location near the Mississippi River in St. Louis, where the body had been dumped.

McLaughlin was convicted of first-degree murder in 2006. A judge sentenced McLaughlin to death after a jury deadlocked on the sentence. A court in 2016 ordered a new sentencing hearing, but a federal appeals court panel reinstated the death penalty in 2021. One person who knew Amber before she transitioned is Jessica Hicklin, 43, who spent 26 years in prison for a drug-related killing in western Missouri in 1995. She was 16. Because of her age when the crime occurred, she was granted release in January 2022. Hicklin, 43, began transi-

tioning while in prison and in 2016 sued the Missouri Department of Corrections, challenging a policy that prohibited hormone therapy for inmates who weren't receiving it before being incarcerated. She won the lawsuit in 2018 and became a mentor to other transgender inmates, including McLaughlin. Though imprisoned together for around a decade, Hicklin said McLaughlin was so shy they rarely interacted. But as McLaughlin began transitioning about three years ago, she turned to Hicklin for guidance on issues such as mental health counseling and getting help to ensure her safety inside a male-dominated maximum-security prison.

"There's always paperwork and bureaucracy, so I spent time helping her learn to file the right things and talk to the right people," Hicklin said.

In the process, a friendship developed. "We would sit down once a week and have what I referred to as girl talk," Hicklin said. "She always had a smile and a dad joke. If you ever talked to her, it was always with the dad jokes."

They also discussed the challenges a transgender inmate faces in a male prison — things like how to obtain feminine items, dealing with rude comments, and staying safe. □

Associated Press



Havasus Falls in the Grand Canyon, Ariz., is pictured in 1993.

Associated Press

Northern Arizona tribe to get federal aid for flood damage

SUPAI, Ariz. (AP) — President Joe Biden has approved a disaster declaration made by the Havasupai Tribe in northern Arizona, freeing up funds for flood damage as it prepares to re-open for tourists after nearly three years.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency confirmed Sunday that federal emergency aid will be given to supplement the tribe's own recovery efforts from severe flooding last October.

The funds will be for the tribe and certain nonprofits to share costs for emergency work and repairs from flood damage. It comes as the Havasupai Indian Reservation, which lies deep in a gorge off the Grand Canyon, is preparing to open up its majestic blue-green

waterfalls for visitors for the first time since March 2020. The tribe had closed to protect its members from the pandemic. Tribal officials decided to extend the closure through the 2022 tourism season. In an update about tourism posted on their website last week, the tribe described how flooding had destroyed several bridges and left downed trees on trails needed for tourists and transporting goods and services into Supai Village.

The tribe, however, also said they are eager to welcome back tourists in February to see "flourishing flora and fauna and new waterfall flows." Northern Arizona tribe to get federal aid for flood damage SUPAI, Ariz. (AP) — President Joe Biden has approved a disaster

declaration made by the Havasupai Tribe in northern Arizona, freeing up funds for flood damage as it prepares to re-open for tourists after nearly three years. The Federal Emergency Management Agency confirmed Sunday that federal emergency aid will be given to supplement the tribe's own recovery efforts from severe flooding last October. It comes as the Havasupai Indian Reservation, which lies deep in a gorge off the Grand Canyon, is preparing to open up its majestic blue-green waterfalls for visitors for the first time since March 2020. The tribe had closed to protect its members from the pandemic. Tribal officials decided to extend the closure through the 2022 tourism season. □

EU Parliament starts process to lift 2 lawmakers' immunity

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The president of the European Parliament has launched an urgent procedure to waive the immunity of two lawmakers following a request from Belgian judicial authorities investigating a major corruption scandal rocking EU politics.

The European Parliament said Monday that President Roberta Metsola asked all services and committees to give the procedure priority, with the goal to have it finished by Feb. 13.

"From the very first moment the European Parliament has done everything in its power to assist in investigations and we will continue to make sure that there will be no impunity," Metsola said. "Those responsible will find this Parliament on the side of the law. Corruption cannot pay and we will do everything to fight it."

The EU Parliament press service did not identify the two MEPs. According to two people familiar with the case who were not allowed to speak publicly because the investigation is ongoing, they are Italian Andrea Cozzolino and Belgian Marc Tarabella.

The two did not immediately respond to queries asking



European Parliament President Roberta Metsola speaks with the media as she arrives for an EU summit in Brussels, on Dec. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

for comments.

Tarabella, whose home was raided last month, and Cozzolino have denied wrongdoing and self-suspended their membership of the Parliament's Socialists and Democrats group (S&D). Cozzolino had previously said he was ready to abandon his parliamentary immunity so that he would be able to answer questions from authorities.

"When it comes to the request to lift their immunity the S&D group would follow, in the context of the European Parliament, the procedures foreseen in a responsible and constructive manner," the Socialists and Democrats said.

A third member of Parliament, Eva Kaili, has already

been charged in relation with the scandal, which allegedly involves Qatari and Moroccan officials suspected of influencing economic and political decisions with gifts and money.

Prosecutors accuse Kaili of corruption, membership in a criminal organization and money laundering. A Greek socialist MEP, Kaili has been in custody since Dec. 9. Her partner, Francesco Giorgi, an adviser at the European Parliament, is jailed on the same charges.

Kaili was relieved of her duties of parliament Vice-President after being charged. She would have normally enjoyed immunity from prosecution but was brought before a judge after Belgian police

launched raids on premises across Brussels last month and large sums of cash were reportedly found at her home.

Kaili and Giorgi are suspected of working with Giorgi's one-time boss, Pier Antonio Panzeri, a former EU lawmaker. According to arrest warrants, Panzeri "is suspected of intervening politically with members working at the European Parliament for the benefit of Qatar and Morocco, against payment."

The Parliament has halted work on files involving Qatar as it investigates what impact the cash-and-gifts-for-influence bribery scandal might have had. Qatar vehemently denies involvement and Morocco has yet to respond to allegations that its ambassador to Poland might have been involved.

Belgian prosecutors are also seeking the handover of Panzeri's wife and daughter from Italy, where they were put under house arrest on similar charges.

A fourth suspect in Belgium — Niccolo Figa-Talamanca, secretary-general of the non-governmental organization No Peace Without Justice — was also charged and jailed over the affair. □

Gang leader freed in Mexico prison attack that killed 17

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican authorities on Monday raised the death toll from an attack on a state prison in Ciudad Juarez across the border from El Paso, Texas to 17, a brazen operation that appeared designed to free the leader of a local gang.

Twenty-five inmates escaped in the attack.

Security Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said 10 of the dead were prison guards who were attacked by gunmen who arrived early Sunday in armored vehicles and fired on the entrance and inside dormi-

tories. Rodríguez identified the inmates who escaped as being with the Mexicles gang, which she associated with the Caborca Cartel. She said the Mexicles' leader was among the fugitives. The Mexicles have been one of Juarez's main gangs for decades and for many years were known to work with the Sinaloa Cartel. The Caborca Cartel had been led by drug lord Rafael Caro Quintero who was recaptured in July.

Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio Sandoval said the soldiers and state police who retook control of



Mexican National Guard stand guard outside a state prison in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Sunday Jan 1, 2023.

Associated Press

the prison found 10 "VIP" cells outfitted with televisions and other comforts. One even had a safe filled with cash.

Authorities also found cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl and marijuana inside the prison.

Sandoval said two other gunmen killed after attacking local police a short time before the attack on the prison were likely a diversion. They were not included in the 17 dead, which were made up of 10 guards and seven inmates. □

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Moscow says Ukrainian rocket strike kills 63 Russian troops

By FELIPE DANA

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian forces fired rockets at a facility in the eastern Donetsk region where Russian soldiers were stationed, killing 63 of them, Russia's defense ministry said Monday, in one of the deadliest attacks on the Kremlin's forces since the war began more than 10 months ago. Ukrainian forces fired six rockets from a HIMARS launch system and two of them were shot down, a defense ministry statement said. It did not say when the strike happened.

The strike, using a U.S.-supplied precision weapon that has proven critical in enabling Ukrainian forces to hit key targets, delivered a new setback for Russia which in recent months has reeled from a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

According to the governor of Russia's Samara region, Dmitry Azarov, an unspecified number of residents of the region were among those killed and wounded by the strike on the town of Makiivka.

Russian military bloggers, whose information has largely been reliable during the war, said ammunition stored close to the facility had exploded in the attack and contributed to the high number of casualties.

Expressing anger at the



Local residents carry their belongings as they leave their home ruined in the Saturday Russian rocket attack in Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023.

losses, Daniil Bezsonov, an official with the Russian-appointed administration in Russian-occupied Donetsk, called for the punishment of military officers who ordered a large number of troops to be stationed at the facility.

The Ukrainian military appeared to acknowledge the attack Monday, with the General Staff confirming that Makiivka was hit on Dec. 31, and saying 10 Russian military vehicles were destroyed or damaged. It added that Russian personnel losses were still being

clarified.

In a claim that could not be independently verified, the Strategic Communications Directorate of Ukraine's Armed Forces had maintained Sunday that some 400 mobilized Russian soldiers were killed in a vocational school building in Makiivka and about 300 more were wounded. The Russian statement said the strike occurred "in the area of Makiivka" and didn't mention the vocational school.

Meanwhile, Russia deployed multiple exploding

drones in another nighttime attack on Ukraine, officials said Monday, as the Kremlin signaled no letup in its strategy of using bombardments to target the country's energy infrastructure and wear down Ukrainian resistance to its invasion. The barrage was the latest in a series of relentless year-end attacks, including one that killed three civilians on New Year's Eve.

On Monday, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that 40 drones "headed for Kyiv" overnight. All of them were destroyed, according to air

defense forces.

Klitschko said 22 drones were destroyed over Kyiv, three in the outlying Kyiv region and 15 over neighboring provinces.

Energy infrastructure facilities were damaged as the result of the attack and an explosion occurred in one city district, the mayor said. It wasn't immediately clear whether that was caused by drones or other munitions. A wounded 19-year-old man was hospitalized, Klitschko added, and emergency power outages were underway in the capital. In the outlying Kyiv region a "critical infrastructure object" and residential buildings were hit, Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba said.

Russia has carried out airstrikes on Ukrainian power and water supplies almost weekly since October.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of "energy terrorism" as the aerial bombardments have left many people without heat amid freezing temperatures. Ukrainian officials say Moscow is "weaponizing winter" in its effort to demoralize the Ukrainian resistance. Ukraine is using sophisticated Western-supplied weapons to help shoot down Russia's missiles and drones, as well as send artillery fire into Russian-held areas of the country. □

Associated Press



Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif attends the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Friday, Sept. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's political and military leadership on Monday vowed that no nation will be allowed to shelter militants who stage attacks against the country — an

apparent reference to neighboring Afghanistan. The statement came amid a spike in attacks by the militant Pakistani Taliban, many of whom are hiding in neighboring Afghanistan.

Pakistan says it won't allow countries to shelter militants

The attacks are on the rise across Pakistan, especially in the northwest near the Afghan border.

The announcement came at the end of a lengthy meeting of Pakistan's National Security Committee, which was attended by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, the newly appointed army chief Gen. Asim Munir, and other officials.

According to a government statement, the committee vowed that there will be "zero tolerance for terrorism in Pakistan" and that militants will be dealt with using the "full force of

the state." The announcement came two weeks after Pakistan's special forces killed more than two dozen detainees linked to the Pakistani Taliban in a raid after they overpowered guards at a counter-terrorism center in the northwest and killed three hostages. Before launching the rescue operation, the detainees had demanded safe passage to Afghanistan, a demand the government rejected. The Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, are separate from, but allied with, the Afghan Tal-

iban. The Afghan Taliban seized power last year as U.S. and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war.

The takeover of Afghanistan emboldened TTP fighters who have stepped up attacks on Pakistani security forces since November when they unilaterally ended a monthslong cease-fire with Pakistan's government. The increasing militant violence has strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, who had brokered the cease-fire in May. □



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The president of the IOC will visit Aruba

Recently in newsletter, the Aruban Olympic Committee announced that the president of the International Olympic Committee will be visiting Aruba in March.

The President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Thomas Bach, will visit Aruba on March 10th and 11th, 2023, as part of a visit to the different IOC Members in the Caribbean region. This visit was announced by Mrs. Nicole Hoevertz to the COA members during the COA General Assembly this past December.

In preparation for this visit, the beautification project of the COA offices has been made a priority for 2023. The President of PanAm Sports, Mr. Neven Ilic, will be accompanying President Bach during the entire tour of the Caribbean region.

Mrs. Juelle Thodé elected as COA's new treasurer

At the COA General Assembly, held on December 17th, the Member Federations unanimously elected Mrs. Juelle Thodé as the new Treasurer of COA. Mrs. Thodé has a long history of involvement in sports, having served as President of the Aruba Cycling Federation, as well as Board member of the COA, and

even as Chief of Mission for several editions of regional and continental Games. The position of Treasurer was previously held by Mr. Giovanni Bermudez, who had to resign earlier this year due to health reasons.

In the newsletter, president of COA, Wanda Broeksema reminisced on the achievements of the COA in 2022.

"COA has had a successful year with several exciting sporting events, including the South American Youth Games (Rosario), the Caribbean Games (Guadeloupe), the South American Games (Asuncion), and the Caribbean Sea and Beach Games (Santa Marta).

"We are proud to report that at the South American Games in Asuncion, our athletes won 3 gold and 3 silver medals, placing Aruba as the 10th highest medal earner out of the 14 participating countries. In November, we also competed in the Central American and Caribbean Beach Games and earned a gold medal in iQFoiling. At the first edition of the Caribbean Games, where COA participated with a small delegation, consisting of only two female athletes (in swimming and in open water swimming), the results were outstanding. Participating in a total of



four events, our athletes were able to win a medal in each one of the events in which they participated.

"However, we also recognize the need to continually improve and identify areas for growth. In 2023, we have four major games on the horizon, including the South American Beach Games in Santa Marta, the Central American and Caribbean Games in San Salvador, the World Beach Games in Bali, and the PanAmerican games in Santiago.

"Additionally, we have ongoing projects such as the visit of IOC President Thomas Bach in March and the redesign and reopening of our offices, a project which we call "All Hands on Deck". It is important to note that funding remains a challenge. While we are proud to have signed an agreement with the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), we are actively exploring further to find ways to secure the necessary resources.

"We must continue to cultivate a culture of inspiration and motivation as we work together to advance sports in Aruba. This year, the new leadership at COA has faced a number of challenges. This includes the resignation of our colleague Mr. Giovanni Bermudez for health reasons, and the undertaking of

an audit process, as part of an integral monitoring process of all NOCs that Olympic Solidarity applies annually. In August, we organized three evenings of workshops on important topics such as the role of "Stichting Sportsubsidie Aruba" (Aruba Sport Subsidy Foundation), financial administration, leadership, branding, and marketing. We received positive feed-

back and will consider your suggestions as we plan future workshops.

"Looking ahead to 2023, we remain optimistic and believe that there are great opportunities ahead for COA and the federations. As always, we will maintain the Olympic Values as our guiding principle as we continue to support sports in Aruba. □



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Travellers' Choice 2020

Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch



NOORD — It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

Tempting times

Do you remember the feeling as a kid, when you went to the store with your mom and the baker gave you a sweet roll, the

butcher a slice of ham and they all took time to talk to each other? That time when doing groceries on a Saturday meant fun, making friends, and creating connections. To be fully aware in the moment and enjoying the time together sounds like a controversy today. Everything is efficient, there's no-time-to-waste and while doing one task the mind is already thinking ahead to what is next on your to-do list. Did Covid-19 teach us anything? Weren't we telling each other during the lockdown that we would pay more attention to each other? Wasn't the message that health and happiness is so much more valuable than hitting targets and implement to-do tasks? The pandemic prevents us from connecting physically. Tight hugs and shak-

ing hands firmly are no longer a natural thing. We live in a world of face masks hides smiles, and hands are sanitized after each touch. This is not who we are. We are in search for connection.

From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic,

experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.

You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □



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Aruba Airport Authority N.V. to operate General Aviation Terminal

ORANJESTAD – The General Aviation Terminal, better known as the FBO at Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix, will be managed and operated by Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) starting January 1, 2023.

Starting in 2023, AAA will operate and manage the FBO operation under its new name – JET-TNCA. Jet is the obvious choice of words to best reflect the fact that private aircraft or jets will be handled at the FBO terminal at the airport and TNCA is the ICAO code for the airport in Aruba.

JET-TNCA is uniquely posi-



tioned in the Caribbean region, making it the perfect stop between North and Latin America. Besides its geographical and strategic advantages, JET-TNCA offers a variety of services

to its customers. Customers can use JET-TNCA's traveler lounge and refreshment area while experiencing the highest level of customer service.

Additionally, JET-TNCA's supervisory and coordination services provide customers with a single point of essential flight services such as aircraft fueling, catering, ground support, accom-

modations, transportation arrangements, and US Customs & Border Protection Pre-Clearance services.

JET-TNCA's purpose is to offer a complete products/service experience (CPE) to a currently underserved leisure niche market within its current territory by connecting with a high-end customer base through luxury inventory collaborative partnerships.

The new JET-TNCA operations team is excited to welcome all its clients and is personally committed to planning and delivering a successful mission by offering a complete range of first-class services supported by dedicated professionals constantly looking at new and innovative ways to satisfy the ever-changing needs and desires of its guests.

A team of professionals led by its FBO Manager, Mrs. Minerva Flemming, will manage the JET-TNCA day-to-day operations. The business development activities of the JET-TNCA will be performed from within the AAA team responsible for aviation business development led by Mrs. Jo-Anne Meaux-Arends, Executive Aviation Business Development at AAA.

For more information on JET-TNCA, please visit its website, WWW.JET-TNCA.COM, or contact us via email at 297-5882465. □



Veggie Boost

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Konkomberchiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Konkomberchiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of

the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Jambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di Jambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonchi' Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and



salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pompuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't

miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

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Facial recognition tool led to mistaken arrest, lawyer says

(AP) — Louisiana authorities' use of facial recognition technology led to the mistaken-identity arrest of a Georgia man on a fugitive warrant, an attorney said in a case that renews attention to racial disparities in the use of the digital tool. Randall Reid, 28, was jailed in late November in DeKalb County, Georgia, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported. His attorney, Tommy Calogero, said authorities erroneously linked Reid to purse thefts in Jefferson Parish and Baton Rouge. Reid, arrested on Nov. 25, was released Dec. 1. Reid is Black, and his arrest brings new attention to the use of a technology critics say results in a higher rate of misidentification of people of color than of white people. "They told me I had a warrant out of Jefferson Parish. I said, 'What is Jefferson Parish?'" Reid said. "I have never been to Louisiana a day in my life. Then they told me it was for theft. So not only have I not been to Louisiana, I also don't steal." Calogero said Reid was falsely linked to the June theft of luxury purses from



Massachusetts Institute of Technology facial recognition researcher Joy Buolamwini stands for a portrait at the school in Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 13, 2019. Louisiana authorities' use of facial recognition technology led to the mistaken identity arrest of a Georgia man on a fugitive warrant, an attorney for the man said.

a consignment shop in Metairie, a New Orleans suburb in Jefferson Parish. A Baton Rouge Police Department detective then adopted the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office's identification of Reid to secure an arrest warrant alleging he was among three men involved in another luxury

purse theft the same week, court records show, according to the newspaper. Differences, such as a mole on Reid's face, prompted the Jefferson sheriff to rescind the warrant, said Calogero, who estimated a 40-pound difference between Reid and the purse thief in surveillance foot-

(AP Photo/Steven Senne, File)

age. Jefferson Sheriff Joe Lopinto's office did not respond to several requests for information from The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate on Reid's arrest and release, the agency's use of facial recognition or any safeguards around it. The agency did not im-

mediately respond to a request, emailed Monday by The Associated Press, for comment on the story and information on the use of the technology. Reid's case brings renewed attention to the use of facial recognition tools in Louisiana and elsewhere. Facial recognition systems have faced criticism because of their mass surveillance capabilities, which raise privacy concerns, and because some studies have shown that the technology is far more likely to misidentify Black and other people of color than white people, which has resulted in mistaken arrests. Police in New Orleans say facial recognition can be used only to generate leads and that officers must get approval from department officials before lodging a request through the Louisiana State Analytic and Fusion Exchange in Baton Rouge. Under the latest city rules, all possible matches must undergo a peer review by other facial recognition investigators. Legislation to restrict the use of facial recognition statewide died in a 2021 legislative session. □

Tesla says it sold a record 1.3 million vehicles last year

(AP) — Tesla said Monday that sold a record 1.3 million vehicles last year, but the number fell short of CEO Elon Musk's pledge to grow the company's sales by 50% nearly every year. The 2022 figure topped the prior record of 936,000 vehicles delivered in 2021, but it was shy of the 1.4 million needed to reach the company's 50% growth target. Sales grew 40% year over year, while production climbed 47% to 1.37 million. The shortfall came despite a major year-end sales push that included rare \$7,500 discounts in the U.S. on the Models Y and 3, the company's top-selling models. Tesla Inc., which is based in Austin, Texas, also had to deal with rising cases of the novel coronavirus in China, which cut into production at its Shanghai factory.

With the extra U.S. push, Tesla delivered more than 405,000 vehicles worldwide in the fourth quarter. But that missed Wall Street projections. Analysts polled by data provider FactSet expected 427,000 deliveries from October through December and 1.33 million for the full year. "Thank you to all of our customers, employees, suppliers, shareholders and supporters who helped us achieve a great 2022 in light of significant COVID and supply chain related challenges throughout the year," the electric vehicle and solar panel company said Monday. Tesla didn't roll out any new models last year, and it's facing increasing competition from legacy automakers and startups such as Lucid and Rivian, which are continually introducing

new electric vehicles. But Musk has promised to start producing the long-awaited Cybertruck electric pickup this year. The company also has started delivering its electric semis. The discounts, offered during the last two weeks of the year, raised questions about whether demand was softening for Tesla products as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to combat inflation. That, coupled with Musk's behavior after his \$44 billion purchase of Twitter, helped to push Tesla shares down more than 65% last year, bumping Musk out of the top spot for the world's wealthiest person, according to Forbes. The company's stock decline for the year, its worst ever, was more than triple the drop in the S&P 500, which was down 19.4%.



A Tesla charges at a station in Topeka, Kan., Monday, April 5, 2021. Tesla says it sold a record 1.3 million electric vehicles in 2022. But the number fell short of CEO Elon Musk's pledge to grow the company's sales by 50% nearly every year.

(AP Photo/Orlin Wagner, File)

Musk wrote on Twitter Dec. 30 that the company's long-term fundamentals are strong, but "short-term market madness" is unpredictable. Some investors are worried

that Twitter has distracted Musk from the car company. Musk said last month that he plans to remain as Twitter's CEO until he can find someone willing to replace him in the job. □

CROSSWORD

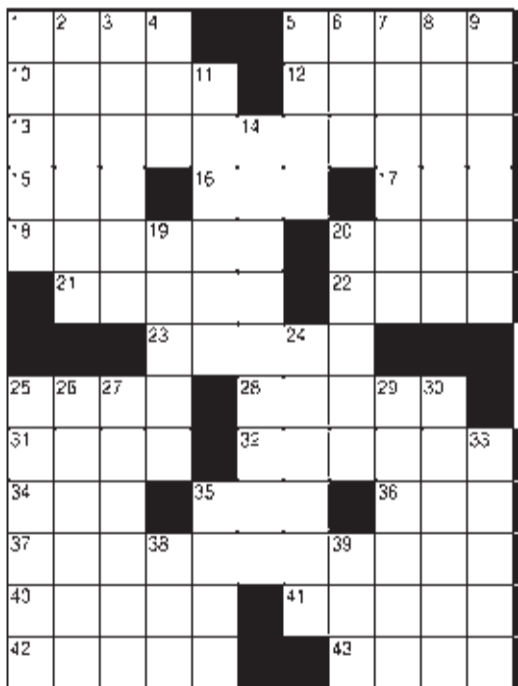
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 35 Casual
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 36 High
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 37 They're
 typed on
 entry
 keypads



Yesterday's answer

- 9 Old autos 26 Meditative
 11 Make martial art
 void 27 Like some
 garages
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 aids 30 Stress
 19 Brings in 33 Exams
 20 Criminal 35 Chiding
 outing sounds
 24 For each 38 Hydro-
 carbon
 25 Person who can
 read 39 Future
 emotions embryos



AXYDLBAXR
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

AGXVX IVX ABP BIWK PC
 KZVXIJLDF RLEGA: AP TX
 AGX SIDJRX PV AGX ULVVPV
 AGIA VXCRXSAK LA. — XJLAG
 BGIVAPD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MY WISH FOR YOU, SWEET HAPPY LIFE/MAY ALL YOUR SORROWS BE GONE AND YOUR HEART BEGIN TO SING! — PEGGY LEE

Kimberly Palmer: How to prepare for your next emergency



In this Nov. 26, 2018, file photo, a Pacific Gas & Electric lineman works to repair a power line in fire-ravaged Paradise, Calif.

Associated Press

By KIMBERLY PALMER
 of NerdWallet

When a power outage knocked out electricity to a multistate region in 2003, Gabriella Barthlow, a financial coach in the Detroit area, was prepared. She had enough money on hand to buy food for herself and her two young children, plus put gas in her car in case they needed to leave home. "I was so happy I had that cash," she recalls. Now, Barthlow encourages her clients to be similarly ready for unexpected events. Power outages, weather interruptions and other disasters can inflict chaos and take a financial toll — often with little warning — but being prepared can help minimize the damage. Here are steps you can take to make sure you're ready for the next emergency.

SET ASIDE PHYSICAL CASH

As Barthlow found, cash can be crucial when you're facing an extended power outage since machines that accept debit and credit cards might not be running. Bernie Carr, author of "The Prepper's Pocket Guide" and founder of

apartmentprepper.com, says you want to keep enough cash on hand to cover gas and food for several days and carry at least some of it with you. "I like to keep \$40 in cash in my car or purse so I know I can always at least get home in case the registers aren't working," Carr says. That money is in addition to an emergency savings fund, which is stored in a savings account to help you get through a period of unexpected hardship or income loss. Financial experts often recommend you build up three to six months worth of expenses into that account, but even much smaller amounts will help stabilize your finances.

BUILD UP SUPPLIES SLOWLY

Carr suggests purchasing supplies over time that could help you survive temporary disruptions to power, water and other utilities, as can happen during natural disasters. "When you next go grocery shopping, set aside \$10 and pick up bottled water or your favorite food can or instant oatmeal," she suggests. On the next visit, put together a first aid kit with items like

bandages and antibacterial wipes, or flashlights and extra batteries. Other types of equipment such as a water filter, camping stove and solar lights can also be helpful. "A lot of emergency gear is also camping equipment, so there are a lot of sales right before and right after summer," Carr says.

GATHER YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Barthlow suggests collecting your essential documents — contact numbers; insurance information; recent bank account statements; identity cards; any marriage, birth and divorce certificates — and putting them in a waterproof, fireproof box, as well as scanning and storing them online in a password-protected account or on a flash drive. □

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2023 public domain debuts include last Sherlock Holmes work

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sherlock Holmes is finally free to the American public in 2023.

The long-running contested copyright dispute over Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's tales of a whipsmart detective — which has even ensnared Enola Holmes — will finally come to an end as the 1927 copyrights expiring Jan. 1 include Conan Doyle's last Sherlock Holmes work.

Alongside the short-story collection "The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes," books such as Virginia Woolf's "To The Lighthouse," Ernest Hemingway's "Men Without Women," William Faulkner's "Mosquitoes" and Agatha Christie's "The Big Four" — an Hercule Poirot mystery — will become public domain as the calendar turns to 2023. Once a work enters the public domain it can legally be shared, performed, reused, repurposed or sampled without permission or cost.

The works from 1927 were originally supposed to be copyrighted for 75 years, but the 1998 Copyright Term Extension Act de-



A Museum of London employee poses for photographers next to an 1897 oil on canvas portrait of Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by illustrator Sidney Paget on display as part of the exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" at the Museum of London in London, Oct. 16, 2014.

layed opening them up for an additional 20 years. While many prominent works on the list used those extra two decades to earn their copyright holders good money, a Duke University expert says the copyright protections also applied to "all of the works whose commercial viability had long subsided."

"For the vast majority—probably 99%—of works from 1927, no copyright holder financially benefited from continued copyright. Yet they remained off limits, for no good reason," Jennifer Jenkins, director of Duke's Center for the Study of the Public Domain, wrote in a blog post heralding "Public Domain Day

2023." That long U.S. copyright period meant many works that would now become available have long since been lost, because they were not profitable to maintain by the legal owners, but couldn't be used by others. On the Duke list are such "lost" films like Victor Fleming's "The Way of All Flesh"

Associated Press

and Tod Browning's "London After Midnight."

1927 portended the silent film era's end with the release of the first "talkie" — a film with dialogue in it. That was "The Jazz Singer," the historic first feature-length film with synchronized dialogue also notorious for Al Jolson's black-face performance.

In addition to the Alan Crosland-directed film, other movies like "Wings" — directed by William A. Wellman and the "outstanding production" winner at the very first Oscars — and Fritz Lang's seminal science-fiction classic "Metropolis" will enter the public domain.

Musical compositions — the music and lyrics found on sheet music, not the sound recordings — on the list include hits from Broadway musicals like "Funny Face" and jazz standards from the likes of legends like Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, in addition to Irving Berlin's "Puttin' on the Ritz" and "(I Scream You Scream, We All Scream for) Ice Cream" by Howard Johnson, Billy Moll and Robert A. King. □

Jeremy Renner seriously injured while plowing snow in Nevada

RENO, Nevada (AP) — "The Avengers" star Jeremy Renner was seriously injured while plowing snow in Reno, Nevada, and is in critical condition.

Authorities and the actor's representative haven't said how the accident occurred, but the Washoe County (Nevada) Sheriff's Office said late Sunday that Renner had to be flown by helicopter to a hospital for treatment. Renner, 51, is in critical condition although he is stable, the actor's representative said Sunday. No further details on the extent of Renner's injuries were available.

Renner was injured in an area near Mt. Rose Highway, a road linking Lake Tahoe, which straddles the Nevada-California border,



Jeremy Renner poses for photographers upon arrival at the UK Fan Screening of the film "Hawkeye," in London, Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

and south Reno. Renner owns a home in Washoe County, which includes Reno, and told the Reno

Gazette Journal in 2019 that he chose the area because Reno was the right-sized city for him, it

has majestic scenery and it allowed him and his family to ski frequently. Renner was the only per-

son involved in Sunday's accident, and the sheriff's office said in a news release that it is investigating. Renner plays Hawkeye, a sharp-shooting member of the superhero Avengers squad in Marvel's sprawling movie and television universe.

He is a two-time acting Oscar nominee, scoring back-to-back nods for "The Hurt Locker" and "The Town." Renner's portrayal of a bomb disposal specialist in Iraq in 2009's "The Hurt Locker" helped turn him into a household name. "The Avengers" in 2012 cemented him as part of Marvel's grand storytelling ambitions, with his character appearing in several sequels and getting its own Disney+ series, "Hawkeye." □

Fenway Park transforms for NHL's 14th annual Winter Classic

By KEN POWTAK

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Fenway Park, the majors' oldest active ballpark, was transformed into an outdoor hockey arena for the NHL's 14th annual Winter Classic on Monday afternoon.

With the logos of the two teams — the Boston Bruins and Pittsburgh Penguins — hanging high atop the seats above the park's fabled 37-foot Green Monster, the league's annual marquee New Year's event returned to Fenway for the second time.

Those usually clad in red and blue for the Boston Red Sox were replaced by thousands wearing black and gold (actually, the colors of both NHL teams), and they lined up around the soon-to-be 111-year old park hours before the faceoff.

The championship banners of the Red Sox, that usually hang along the outside of the third-base side of the park, were replaced by banners of the Bruins, Penguins and the Winter Classic logo.

About 4 hours before the game, Bruins' fans lined the gates along the players' parking lot just behind home plate, looking to get a glimpse of their stars before they entered.

Bruins' players joined into the baseball theme, too, coming into the park wearing vintage white Red Sox uniforms with "Boston" in red letters across the front. Some played catch in front of the home dugout, which had "Boston Bruins" across the top on the first-base side. The visitors had "Pittsburgh Penguins" on the roof.

The team's official souvenir store was filled with Bruins and Penguins Classic gear, with most of the Red Sox stuff pushed to back racks. The rink stretched from just beyond what's usually second base across the middle of the diamond, over the pitcher's mound where Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez worked for the Red Sox, and toward the visitors' dugout on an unseasonably warm afternoon

with temperatures in the upper 40s.

Last season's Classic was played at Target Field in Minnesota — the home of MLB's Twins — and saw the temperature drop to minus-5.7 degrees Fahrenheit. Before the game, a free concert that featured country music star Sam Hunt was held in a parking lot across the street from Fenway, where fans could play a giant table-top hockey game and take a challenge of ingesting hot sauce before sitting in a penalty box for two minutes along with other free events.

Hunt sang his hit song "23" in his nearly hour-long performance, bringing up the start of 2023.

In an interesting twist to the

game's venue, the Penguins are owned by Fenway Sports Group, which also owns the Red Sox. They were sold to the group that's headed by Principle Owner John Henry in December of 2021.

So, Boston's professional hockey team faced Henry's NHL team in his MLB park. Some fans picked up on the moment.

"It's kind of strange, but I knew they were going to play the Penguins," said Andy Holt, 58, from Merrimack, New Hampshire, who was wearing a Bruins' Patrice Bergeron No. 37 road jersey.

One fan even had some advice for the Red Sox with star third baseman Rafael Devers after they lost short-stop Xander Bogaerts, who



Boston Bruins players, from left, Linus Ullmark, Jeremy Swayman, A.J. Greer and Charlie McAvoy walk off the field in vintage Boston Red Sox uniforms before the NHL Winter Classic hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, at Fenway Park in Boston.

Associated Press

signed a \$280-million, 11-year deal as a free agent with the San Diego Padres last month.

"John Henry, the traitor. I

don't love it," Ally Ryan, 29, from Marshfield, Massachusetts, said of the Bruins facing Henry's NHL team. "They better sign Devers." □

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NFC is wide open heading into final weekend of NFL

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady again was at his best when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers needed him most. The 45-year-old, seven-time Super Bowl champion had one of the best statistical games of his 23-year career in a 30-24 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday that clinched Tampa's second straight NFC South title.

Another old quarterback who also wears No. 12 is one way win away from joining Brady in the playoffs. Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay Packers routed Minnesota 41-17 for their fourth straight win. One more next week at home against Detroit secures a wild-card spot that seemed improbable when the Packers were 4-8.

On a day when the NFC's top teams struggled, the Buccaneers (8-8) and Packers (8-8) were victorious in must-win games and proved they can't be counted out despite mediocre records.

"Playoffs start a clean slate



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady passes during the first half of an NFL football game between the Carolina Panthers and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

for everybody," Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles said. "You've got a three-game elimination tournament and it doesn't matter where you are."

Brady rekindled his connection to Mike Evans, hitting the four-time Pro Bowl receiver in stride three times for touchdown passes of 63, 57 and 30 yards. He finished 34 of 45 for 432 yards, tying the fifth-highest output in his career.

"Mike played awesome,

like he always does," Brady said. "I love playing out there with him and he's an amazing player. I've missed him too many times this year, so it was nice to connect with him and hopefully we can keep that going. I think we will."

Brady became the first player in league history to complete at least 30 passes in five consecutive games and the first player with at least 30 completions in 10 games within a single sea-

son. His completion percentage of 75.6% was his highest in a game with at least 45 pass attempts in his career.

Evans had 10 catches for 207 yards to surpass 1,000 yards receiving for the ninth straight season, extending his own NFL record to begin a career.

"Tom was just dropping dimes," Evans said. "Those were some really, really good balls. One of the best games I've seen Tom play since he has been here. They were falling right in the breadbasket every time. He had an unbelievable game."

Brady has now led the Buccaneers to three comeback wins when trailing by double digits in the fourth quarter, including two in a row. With Brady and Evans back in sync and Tampa's defense playing tough, the Buccaneers are a dangerous team in the playoffs. Same for Rodgers and the Packers.

A ball-hawking defense helped Green Bay dismantle NFC North champion

Minnesota. Two-time Pro Bowl cornerback Jaire Alexander and the secondary held star receiver Justin Jefferson to just one catch. Rodgers was efficient, Aaron Jones ran for 111 yards and the defense forced four turnovers, including a pick-6 by Darnell Savage.

Now, after several outcomes around the league went their way over the past few weeks, the Packers just have to beat the Lions (8-8) to get in.

"I know not many people in that locker room and definitely not many of you people believed we'd be sitting here at 8-8 with control of our own destiny going into Week 18," Rodgers said. "That's pretty special." Suddenly, the NFC seems wide open after the Philadelphia Eagles (13-3) lost their second straight game without Jalen Hurts, the Vikings (12-4) were blown out and the San Francisco 49ers (12-4) needed overtime to beat Las Vegas after surrendering 500 yards to Jarrett Stidham and the Raiders' offense. □



Tennis great Martina Navratilova is shown in the royal box on Centre Court at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Saturday July 4, 2015.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tennis great Martina Navratilova said Monday that she has been diagnosed with throat cancer and breast

cancer. In a statement released by her representative, the 18-time Grand Slam singles champion and member of the Internation-

Martina Navratilova diagnosed with throat, breast cancer

al Tennis Hall of Fame said her prognosis is good and she will start treatment this month.

"This double whammy is serious but still fixable, and I'm hoping for a favorable outcome," the 66-year-old Navratilova said. "It's going to stink for a while but I'll fight with all have I got." She said she noticed an enlarged lymph node in her neck while attending the season-ending WTA Finals in Fort Worth, Texas, in November, and a biopsy showed early stage throat cancer. While Navratilova

was undergoing tests on her throat, she said, the unrelated breast cancer was discovered.

Navratilova was diagnosed with a noninvasive form of breast cancer in 2010 and had a lumpectomy. She won 59 Grand Slam titles overall, including 31 in women's doubles and 10 in mixed doubles. The last was a mixed doubles championship with Bob Bryan at the 2006 U.S. Open, a month shy of her 50th birthday. Navratilova originally retired in 1994, after a record 167 singles titles and

331 weeks at No. 1 in the WTA rankings. She returned to the tour to play doubles in 2000 and occasionally competed in singles, too. Navratilova was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2000. She has worked as a TV analyst in recent years.

The statement issued Monday said Navratilova would not be a regular part of Tennis Channel's coverage of the Australian Open later this month "but hopes to be able to join in from time to time" via video conference. □